● PRINTER RUSH ●

(PTO ASSISTANCE) 2nd request

Application : 09475444 **Examiner :** Miller **GAU :** 2614

From: J. Black **Location:** (IDC) FMF FDC **Date:** 6/22/05

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DOC CODE	DOC DATE	MISCELLANEOUS
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☐ DRW	_____	
☐ OATH	_____	
☐ 312	_____	
☒ SPEC	_____	

[RUSH] **MESSAGE:** Per previous query missing data was added to page 1 of specification but now the same provisional number is listed twice.

Please resolve.

[XRUSH] **RESPONSE:** Done

Application only claims provisional to 60/744,456

INITIALS: DP

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REV 10/04

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METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR SELECTING A SATELLITE SIGNAL

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application claims benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/144,456, filed July 19, 1999~~, and U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/_____, filed _____, 1999, which are hereby incorporated by reference in their entirety~~.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of Invention

The present invention relates to a Direct Broadcast Satellite (DBS) system. More particularly, the invention relates to a method and apparatus for selecting one of a plurality of information signals broadcast from at least one satellite in the Direct Broadcast Satellite (DBS) system.

2. Description of the Background Art

Direct Broadcast Satellite (DBS) content providers have chosen to use multiple satellite networks to distribute their signals. In the past, a Low Noise Block converter (LNB) supply voltage (+13V/+18V) has been used to select between the two polarities of signals that were available on a single satellite network. Additionally, if signals from only two satellites are available for reception, then the presence or absence of a 22 KHz tone superimposed on the LNB supply voltage may be used to switch between either of the two satellite networks.

When the number of satellite networks grows beyond two, the voltage, and tone switching combination is no longer sufficient. One method to overcome this impediment is through bi-directional communications between an integrated receiver/decoder (IRD) and a satellite selector switch, such as used in the European standard known as DISEQ. The IRD sends a command signal to the selector switch to switch to a selected satellite network. The two-way (bi-directional) protocol provides an avenue for feedback from the switch to the IRD. Thus, in an instance where the IRD sends a command to the selector switch, the selector switch upon switching, sends an acknowledgement message back to the IRD.

However, not all satellite systems utilize bi-directional protocols, rather many utilize unidirectional messaging. The problem encountered by an integrated